CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) According to Article 343(1) of the Constitution Hindi is the official language of the Union. Under Article 343(2), use of English has been allowed to continue for a period of fifteen years from the commencement of the Constitution. Under Section 3(1) of the Official Languages Act. 1963 use of English, in addition to Hindi, has been continued for the official purposes of the Union. Section 3(5) of the Act provides that this provision shall remain in force until resolutions for the discontinuance of the use of English language have been passed by the legislatures of all the States which have not adopted Hindi as their official language and until after considering these resolutions a resolution for such discontinuance has been passed by each House of Parliament. Constant efforts are being made for progressive use of Hindi in the official work of the Union.

Uncovering of a plot against the life of Prime Minister

1768. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a plot against the life of the Prime Miniser, Shri Rajiv Gandhi was uncovered following the seizure of remote controlled detonators from Sikh militants during his visit to Vaucouver for Commonwealth Summit;

(b) if so, what are the deails thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to strengthen the security arrangement for the Prime Minister?

THE MINTSTER OF STATE TN THF. MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINTSTER OF STATE TN THE MINTSTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Security provided to schools in Delhi against possible attacks by terrorists

1769. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around August, 1987, there was wide apprehension of terrorist offensives against schools and school children in New Delhi;

(b) what is the security, if any, provided by the Central Government to the schools in Delhi; and

(c) what are the guidelines, if any, for providing security to Members of Parlia ment and their families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE TN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINTSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A rumour was afloat in Delhi in August, 1987 about threat of terrorists killing school children. The position was checked with some of the schools, and it was found that the schools had not received any threat on telephone or through letter, etc. However, not taking any chances, adequate arrangements have been made in some schools by the local police and intensified patrolling by police control room vans and local police was introduced.

(c) The need fo,- providing securi'y to Members of Parliament is decided on case-by-case basis according to the threat perceptions.

Linking of Ganga and Cauvery

1770. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the scheme of Dr K. L. Rao for linking of Ganga and Cauvery for irrigation and other purposes;

(b) whether Government propose to re-examine the scheme in view of the drought situation;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The Ganga Cauvery link proposed by Dr. K. L. Rao envisages withdrawal of 1680 cumec of the flood flows of the Ganga near Patna for about 150 days in a year and pumping about 1400 cumec for transfer to the peninsular region and utilising the remaining in the southern parts of Ganga basin itself. An area of 4 m.ha, is expected to be brought under irrigation by the scheme.

(b) to (d) As an alternative to the proposal by Dr. K. L. Rao and others, a National Perspective for Water Resources Development has been formulated by the Government envisaging construction of storages and inter-linking of rivers for diversion of surplus waters to deficit regions. it comprises two components viz (i) Himalayan rivers development and (ii) Peninsular rivers development. The fatter component is under study by the National Water Development Agency set up by the Government for this purpose.

Research conducted by the all India coordinated research project on ethnobiology

1771. PROF C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several housand wild plants used by the tribals to fieht diseases and by several animals and birds species and which serves as their food and eneTgy have been identified by the All India Coordinated Research Pro ject on Ethnobiology (AICRPE);

(b) if so. what are the areas where these researches have been conducted; and

(c) what programmes have been made on the basis of these researches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project covers the tribal areas of the States of Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(c) The findings of the project have been communicated to the State Governments for development of appropriate programmes. A centrally sponsored programme for plantation of minor forest produce including plants with an outlay of Rs. 5 crores has been included in the Seventh Plan.

Selection of trees for replantation

1772. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA; Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in our zeal to cover extensive areas under replantation, adequate care is not taken to select the variety of trees/plants that will not only give a green look but will help to improve environment and augment rains;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to faulty selection of plants, people in the hilly areas are developing allergy and some trees are eating away the soil moisture and are also repelling the clouds;

(c) whether any survey has been made by Government in this regard; if so, what are the findings of the survey and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure the selection of right type of trees/plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no scientific foundation to the allegation that trees planted under the afforestation Programme in the hilly